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February 26, 2016

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To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES HOMELESS VETERANS LEASING ACT [H.R. 3484 (LIEU, D-CA)]

Executive Summary

This memorandum is to inform the Board that, on February 25, 2016, the House Veterans Affairs Committee approved, by voice vote, H.R. 3484, the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act, which was introduced by Representative Lieu (D-CA).

H.R. 3484 is a County-supported bill, which would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into enhanced-use leases to construct permanent supportive housing at its West Los Angeles Medical Center. Before approving the bill, the Committee also adopted, by voice vote, a substitute amendment with language to authorize the VA to grant easements or rights-of-way on the campus to "any local or regional public transportation authority to access, construct, use, operate, maintain, repair or reconstruct public mass transit facilities, including fixed guideway facilities and transportation centers." This amendment would enable a Metro subway station to be constructed and operated at the West Los Angeles campus, as supported by the County.

Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act

On February 25, 2016, the House Veterans Affairs Committee approved, by voice vote, H.R. 3484, the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act, which was introduced by Representative Ted Lieu on September 10, 2015. As introduced, the bill would remove a prohibition on the use of enhanced-use leases (EULs) for constructing permanent

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supportive housing at the VA's West Los Angeles campus. Such EUL authority has been used to construct permanent supportive housing at other VA facilities, including at its Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center where 147 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless veterans were developed.

Before approving the bill, the Committee adopted a substitute amendment by Committee Chair Jeff Miller (R-FL), which includes County-supported language that would authorize the VA to grant easements or rights-of-way on its West Los Angeles campus that would enable a Metro subway station or other transit facilities to be built and operated there. The substitute amendment also includes language to:

- Allow the State of California, County, and other public entities or public utilities to provide public utilities, such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, or telecommunications services on the campus; and
- Establish a Community Veterans Engagement Board for the campus to identify the goals of the community and provide advice and recommendations to the VA Secretary on improving services for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families. At least 50 percent of the Board is to be comprised of veterans with the balance to be family members of veterans, veteran advocates, service providers, or stakeholders.

Legislative Outlook

Senator Dianne Feinstein, who introduced S. 2013, a companion bill to H.R. 3484 last September, has issued a press statement applauding the House Veterans Affairs Committee's approval of H.R. 3484, and indicating that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is expected to consider her companion bill in March.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
MT:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist